

(New Castle, PA) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today announced that he has succeeded in helping New Castle resident Carl Kirkwood obtain disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for frostbite related injuries he sustained during World War II. When Kirkwood originally filed for disability benefits from the VA in January 2006, his claim was denied. Kirkwood faced many obstacles as he worked to appeal his case, including the fact that his military records are missing.

Since 2007, Congressman Altmire advocated for Kirkwood by pushing the VA to reevaluate its decision, sending letters of support for Kirkwood's claim, and connecting Kirkwood to Kevin Noel with the Disabled American Veterans, who helped Kirkwood appeal the VA's decision.

"Nothing is more important to me than advocating for my constituents," Congressman Altmire said. **"C**

arl Kirkwood served his country honorably in World War II and in the process sustained injuries that still cause him pain. I believe our government has a moral obligation to support the men and women who have fought for our country, and I am glad I could help Mr. Kirkwood obtain the benefits he deserves."

The Veterans Administration granted Kirkwood a service-connected disability combination rating of 20 percent for his ailments, meaning that he will be eligible for free medical care and receive a fixed payment each month for his injuries. Kirkwood has also received back payments for his disability dating back to 2006, when he originally filed his claim.